

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE
IN SUPPORT OF HB 5460, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODEL PLAN FOR EMERGING
BIOSCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESSES IN SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT
March 9, 2013

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee:

I am Jayne Douglas and I am here to testify in support of HB 5460, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODEL PLAN FOR EMERGING BIOSCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESSES IN SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT.

As a former Pfizer executive, I am presently a consultant in SE CT focusing on strategic planning and leadership development in the pharma industry. Having spent 22 years at Pfizer, I have seen a lot of change and downsizing in the area. Also, having interacted with many of the colleagues whose positions have been moved outside of the area, most colleagues would prefer to stay in the area, but many do not have a choice.

There is a unique opportunity to capitalize on the density of talent and infrastructure that exists in southeastern Connecticut and immediate action is required to stop the exodus of highly trained talent. Having followed the action in this entrepreneurial space, it has been very disappointing to see the monies and support continue to be given to those areas that already have a structure in place: the Hartford, New Haven and Stamford areas.

SE CT would benefit from some monies and support in this space as the southeastern region of Connecticut has lacked a focal point or office of innovation for those seeking to start a new venture. It has been like we are the forgotten corner of the state. In the New London Day today it talked about SE CT as one of the slowest areas in the COUNTRY to recover from the recession. I would like to see the state take a proactive role to respond to this trend and assist SE CT in recovery, by enacting HB 5460.

I strongly encourage and support HB 5460, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODEL PLAN FOR EMERGING BIOSCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESSES IN SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT.

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